

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application, none of which have been amended. No new claims have been added.

In view of the aforementioned remarks, claims 1-6 are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

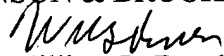
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/709,908
Preliminary Amendment

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



William L. Brooks

Attorney for Applicant

Reg. No. 34,129

WLB/mla

Atty. Docket No. 991300A
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Replacement Sheets of Drawing (Figs. 1 and 4(A)-32)
Substitute Abstract of the Disclosure
Marked-Up Specification
Substitute Specification

H:\HOME\letitia\WLB\99\991300a\preliminary amendment